

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Below is the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3)(i), with any mark-ups showing the changes made by the present Amendment.

1. (Currently amended) A nonwoven fiber article, comprising:

a first surface comprising a pattern formed of chopped nonwoven fibers dewatered from a slurry to lay directionally aligned in a plurality of corresponding intersecting ~~crossing~~ linear formations that are formed on substantially the same linear plane such that fibers within linear formations in one direction are interlaced with fibers within linear formations in other directions at intersections of the intersecting linear formations; and

a second surface opposed to and coextensive with the first surface, the second surface comprising a collection of chopped nonwoven fibers dewatered from the slurry to lay randomly dispersed.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

6. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.
7. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 1, further comprising a binder material distributed among the directionally aligned and randomly dispersed fibers.
8. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 7, wherein the fiber article comprises about 5-30% binder material by weight.
9. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 7, wherein the binder material comprises an organic compound.
10. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 9, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.
11. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the directionally aligned fibers constitute about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber article.
12. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the fiber article has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test of about 393g mean tears when the fiber article has a weight of 1.6 lb/sq. and when 15% of the weight of the fiber article is binder material.

13. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 12, wherein an overall thickness of the fiber article is about 0.035 inches, and the directionally aligned fibers comprise a thickness in the article of about 0.002 to 0.010 inches.

14. (Currently amended) A nonwoven fiber article, comprising:

a first surface comprising a pattern formed of chopped nonwoven fibers dewatered from a slurry to collectively lay horizontally dispersed in two or more intersecting predetermined directions, wherein the two or more collections in the predetermined directions are formed on substantially the same linear plane such that fibers collectively dispersed in one of the predetermined directions are interlaced with fibers collectively dispersed in others of the predetermined directions at intersections of the collections in the two or more predetermined directions; and

a second surface opposed to and coextensive with the first surface, the second surface comprising a collection of chopped nonwoven fibers dewatered from the slurry to lay randomly dispersed.

15. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.

16. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

17. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.
18. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, and further comprising a binding material dispersed substantially throughout the fiber article for binding the fibers in their dispersed orientations.
19. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 18, wherein the binding material is an organic compound, and wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.
20. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers comprising the first surface are horizontally dispersed in linear formations extending in the two or more predetermined directions.
21. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers of the first surface that are horizontally dispersed in predetermined directions constitute about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber article.
22. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fiber article has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test of about 393g mean tears when the fiber article has a weight of 1.6 lb/sq. and when 15% of the weight of the fiber article is binder material.

23. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 22, wherein an overall thickness of the fiber article is about 0.035 inches, and the fibers of the first surface that are horizontally dispersed in predetermined directions comprise a thickness in the article of about 0.002 to 0.010 inches.

24. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers of the first surface and the fibers of the second surface are collectively, horizontally dispersed to a substantially uniform thickness.

25. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the binding material comprises about 5% to 30% of a total weight of the fiber article.

26 - 50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the directionally aligned fibers comprising the first surface have an overall thickness substantially equal to a thickness of one of the linear formations.

52. (Previously presented) A fiber material according to claim 20, wherein the nonwoven fibers horizontally dispersed in two or more predetermined directions comprising the first surface have a substantially uniform overall thickness when dispersed in the two or more predetermined directions.